

Monthly Report for November 2013

Submitted December 6, 2013

Meeting with Kennedy Krieger Institute

Ross Goldstein met with researchers at Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI). The meeting was organized by Leslie Wilson, formerly at MSDE and currently on the Board at Kennedy Krieger Institute. The goal of the meeting was to provide the KKI researchers with an overview of the MLDS Center, the status of the system, and an overview of the current research agenda. There was also a discussion about possible opportunities to work collaboratively.

Meeting with Senator Joan Carter Conway

Ross Goldstein met with Senator Conway as part of a pre-legislative session outreach effort to update legislators on the status of the Center, the development of the system, and understand what, if any, expectations legislators have of the MLDS for the 2014 session.

Student Stat

Staff attended the Governor's Student Stat meeting on Wednesday, December 4th. While there were no items or issues that staff was asked to respond to, it was a good opportunity to learn about the process, the issues of primary focus, and expectations for future participation by the Center.

Meeting – DoIT Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Center staff met with Ms. Julia Fischer, senior GIS analyst with the Department of Information Technology. Ms. Fischer discussed the ways that DoIT provides support for State agencies and entities wishing to use GIS tools on websites. There are several options available, most of which would cause the Center to incur little or no direct cost, although each has advantages. As the Center brings data systems online, the Center will work with DoIT to identify those solutions that are best suited to develop appropriate GIS maps for the website.

Reporting and Portal Services Branch

The Reporting and Portal Services Branch completed a priority update to certain elements on the website. Work has begun on a report on dual enrollment, mandated by the General Assembly, which will be submitted in December. Updates and additions to the policy briefs posted on the website are in the planning stages.

IT and Data Management Branch

The Master Data Management (MDM) end-to-end work-flow is now completed and implemented along with the supporting database in the MLDS development environment. Individuals at DLLR, MHEC and MSDE have been collaborating to develop the final organization and individual identification data collection files. An updated data inventory has been completed which lists these new data elements in the data collection files as aligned to the national common education data standards (CEDS). A critical next step is to start receiving data files from the agencies in order to test business rules and match rates.

MLDS Center staff toured the Department of Public Safety and Correctional System (DPSCS) data center last month. Art Ray at DPSCS graciously fielded our questions and we look forward to the collaboration as we enhance and then sustain the MLDS at the data center.

Research and Policy Branch

The second talk in the Research Series was given on December 6th by Dr. Laura Stapleton. The topic was on data analytic methods that support causal inference in education policy research. The next Research Series talks will be held in February and March in Annapolis, exact location to be determined.

The Research team also continued work on the research policy questions, gathering and synthesizing available research and policy scholarship that will both inform analytic work in the near future and be included in research reports. The research team has also participated in ongoing efforts in preparation and planning for the first data upload, and planning for future data variable needs in order to rigorously respond to the research agenda as set by the Board.